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like, sometimes a little irregular and extravagant, but, when followed closely, through all its various changes, vibrations and intonations, is found to possess a striking sweetness and freshness, seldom excelled and rarely equalled, if we except the beautiful strain of the hermit thrush. He gives to his lower notes a quiet dash of subdued sadness, and then immediately swells them to upward bars of wondrous perfection and beauty. He has a set of notes in an under key that are seldom heard by the unobservant ear, and if heard are attributed to another bird. He gives a clear, quick, military call and has a piercing cry of distress. The notes about the nest are all suppressed and low, but yet clear and distinct. They are uttered by the female and are the language of the mother to her offspring. She has no distinct song.

RAMBLES OF A BOTANIST IN WYOMING TERRITORY.

BY REV. E. L. GREENE.

NO. II.

WITH the month of July, the varied profusion of flowers begins to be greatly reduced on the high plains, whose rich spring flora was briefly sketched in the last number.

On the third of this month we stood upon the summit of a ridge commanding a view of many surrounding miles of these treeless lands. The grasses, under the constant sun and the now advancing drought, were already losing their freshness of color, and becoming cured, uncut, into hay for the antelope and the domestic herd, to feed them during the next eight months. There is yet one very showy flowering plant, which has so far resisted the drought, and is now giving to even hundreds of acres of ground the very azure of the sky above — a sea of blue. The plant is *Delphinium azureum* Michx., a perennial species of larkspur. In the month of April the root-leaves make their appearance, and as they furnish then the only sort of green herbage that has been seen for many months, herdsmen are obliged to exercise all diligence to keep cattle away from the tracts which this plant occupies. The

leaves when eaten cause speedy death, and so this great beauty of the plains is known to the settlers by the name of "poison weed."

On the stony ridge, our point of observation, there was not much left at this season to interest us, save the fruits of the *Asragali* and other remains of the flowers of spring. A little daisy-like composite, with white rays, quite stemless and altogether unnoticeable but for the comparatively large size of its flowers, was new to us then, and a good acquisition, proving to be Nuttall's *Townsendia strigosa*. Another tenant of this same series of hills now in flower is *Eritrichium glomeratum* DC., a coarse hairy biennial a foot high, belonging to the natural order Boraginaceæ. Along the dry margin of what had been a pond at an earlier date, we found an abundance of a very small *Gilia* (*G. minima* Gray) which, as we have never seen it anywhere else, in all the region, must be accounted as rare in these parts, as it is minute and interesting. *Gilia congesta* Hook., a handsome species, is now to be found in a good state for collecting, growing in the gravel beds along Crow Creek, at Cheyenne, and with it the splendid blue-flowered *Pentstemon glaber* Pursh.

The railway station, Sherman, some thirty or thirty-five miles west from Cheyenne, has an altitude of about two thousand feet above that of Cheyenne, and the flora of that vicinity is still more interesting than that of the region we have just been noticing, especially at this season of the year. It was on the 3d of July that we had a delightful ramble among the rocky "Black Hills," in this part of the Territory. Although this district does not suffer from drought as do the lower altitudes, yet timber appears always to have been scarce. One can see that whatever was available for the purposes of fuel and ties for the railway has long since been appropriated, and there now remain only a few scattered pines (*Pinus ponderosa* Dougl.) on the hills, and some little groves of aspen (*Populus tremuloides* Mx.) in the moist valleys. There are straggling bushes of "wild sage" (*Artemisia tridentata* Nutt.) growing on all the hilly portions of the land, and with it we found the more interesting *Purshia tridentata* DC., a rosaceous shrub, with inconspicuous flowers, easily mistaken for sage brush itself. *Salix rostrata* Rich., *S. glauca* L., and one or two other species of willow, were noticed in some boggy places, their leaves in the early morning drooping and distorted, as were

also those of the herbaceous plants, with the severity of the night's frost, even in early July.

On dry open grounds we found an abundance of *Castilleja parviflora* Bong., a fine scarlet-flowered species peculiar to the far west, and with it a more strictly alpine, and a yellow-flowered one, *C. breviflora* Gray. These two, together with plenty of that most handsome Pentstemon, *P. acuminatus* Dougl., were enough to convert even the otherwise barren hillsides into a paradise of beauty. Among the grasses and sedges of the marshy places, were quantities of a large "buttercup," an unusually showy form of *Ranunculus affinis* R. Br.; and also an Allium, species uncertain, for we indulged a natural dislike for the whole tribe of leeks, and passed by these really handsome purple-flowered ones without taking one specimen for our herbarium. A fine "monkshood" (*Aconitum nasutum* Fisch.), its flowers in most cases dark purple, but in other specimens yellowish-white, was also very conspicuous in wet shades; and in the edges of these wet places, grew *Hedysarum boreale* Nutt. and *Astragalus alpinus* L.; both interesting leguminous plants not often met with.

One crystal brooklet had its margins adorned with the large yellow purple-dotted corollas of *Mimulus luteus* L., while the damp ground near by was neatly carpeted with *Veronica serpyllifolia* L. These two elegant Scrophulariaceæ, one belonging eastward and the other more exclusively to the distant west, have met here on common ground; and with them was a very diffuse Androsace; with pale foliage, the species doubtful.

Out again upon higher and drier land we suddenly came upon quite an unexpected rarity in *Ranunculus Nuttallii* Gray. We had found it twice in Colorado, in shaded ravines, in the original slender form: but this Wyoming plant has far more numerous and more showy flowers than before seen. It is quite abundant, too, in this new locality. Here was an abundance also of *Eriogonum umbellatum* Torr., with that cream-colored shade of flowers usually met with in this plant at higher altitudes. They are always of a deep, rather greenish yellow in the less elevated localities. Under the shade of some high and massive piles of rock, which constitute an interesting feature of the landscape at this place, we found for the first time, in all our Rocky Mountain rambles, the splendid *Polemonium confertum* Gray. It was the larger variety,

and all the flowers pure white. This alone, we then thought well worth our thirty miles' journey on horseback; but a few weeks later, the discoverer of the plant conducted us to one of his original localities of it, near the summit of Parry's Peak in Colorado.

At the margin of a shallow pond, walled in on one side by rocks, and hidden on the other by a growth of aspens, we frightened, from his herborizing among the sedges, a fine black-tailed deer and gathered for ourselves some large specimens of the brilliant *Pedicularis Greenlandica* Retz, and the large silvery leaves of the rare *Nardosmia sagittata* Hook. But the day was now past the meridian, and we were obliged to take leave of this interesting ground, in order to reach Cheyenne at a reasonable hour of the evening, gathering by the way, upon the lower plains, the vespertine *Mentzelias* and *Oenotheras*, which unfold their petals towards sunset, and breathe fragrance upon the air of night.

BOTANICAL OBSERVATIONS IN WESTERN WYOMING.

BY DR. C. C. PARRY.

NO. IV.—APPENDIX; DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES, ETC.

THE numbers are those affixed to the tickets in the distributed collection, and referred to in the preceding articles. The characters or descriptions which follow are by the botanists respectively whose names are appended to their several contributions,—in which the collector, having been summoned to a remote frontier, is able to take only a small part.

3. *AQUILEGIA JONESII*.—Acaulescent, minutely soft-pubescent; leaves all crowded, and the persistent scale-like dilated bases of their petioles imbricated on the stout ascending branches of the rootstock, biternately divided; the primary divisions with very short if any partial petioles, and the secondary ones sessile or confluent at base, so that the nine small and obovate entire leaflets or divisions are in a dense cluster; scape from one to at length three inches high, naked, exceeding the leaves, one-flowered. sepals and petals blue; the former oblong, exceeding the gradually tapering straightish spurs; styles long, exserted; pods turgid, reticulated, smooth.—In crevices of loose arenaceous limestone, on the summit of Phlox Mountain, forming close clusters. A remarkable and most distinct, very dwarf species, collected July 18, mostly out of flower, and with full-grown fruit; but a few blossoms were secured. The species is dedicated to Capt. W. A. Jones, U. S. Engineer, who first detected this interesting species, and to whose efficient aid as Commander of the expedition the botanical collection is largely indebted for its most valuable results.—C. C. PARRY.